

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1-3, 5-7, 10-14, and 29-30 are pending in this application.

Claims 4, 8, and 15-28 were previously canceled.

Claim 30 is hereby canceled.

Claims 1-3, 6, 9-10, 12, and 28 are hereby amended.

1. Claim 30 was objected to. Correction amendment is made in order to refer to dependency from claim 1, just as the examiner assumed was appropriate.
2. Claims 1-3, 5-7, 9-14, and 29-30 were rejected under 35 USC 103(a) over Donovan et al. and Minura et al in view of Kung et al.

Donovan fails to teach or suggest a gateway through which a voice call is made, where the gateway directs the call from over the network and intermediates the call between call source and recipient throughout the duration of the call. For example, the last sentence of the Donovan abstract teaches only a voice response unit (VRU) that establishes the call and then releases the call after connection.

Applicants amended claims address the gateway that intermediates the call to connect it throughout the period of the call.

Under the circumstance, Donovan teaches away from any possibility that a gateway like Applicant's could or would serve to count packet data numbers (or the like) during the entire call. Donovan could not serve as Applicant's counter and intermediary, because the Donovan VRU releases the call once connected between initiator and recipient. Thus, the Donovan base reference teaches away.

The other references, Minura and King, merely address certain features, but not deficiencies of Donovan. These other references, as well, do not teach or suggest any combination in the manner proposed by the examiner and, taken individually and in combination, do not teach or suggest Applicant's claimed invention.

Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of the rejection and allowance of the remaining amended claims and the newly added claims.

If the Examiner has any questions or comments, the undersigned attorney for Applicant respectfully requests a call to discuss any issues. The Office is authorized to charge any excess fees or to credit any overage to the undersigned's Deposit Account No. 50-1350.

Respectfully submitted,

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